

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,347
Amendment dated August 4, 2003
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. It is believed that this Amendment and the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action dated **February 3, 2003**.

Claim 9 is amended into an independent form, which is believed to be allowable.

The following section number corresponds to the paragraph number in the outstanding office action mailed on February 3, 2003.

Drawings

1. The office action alleged to correct Figures 15-17 to indicate a legend such as "Prior Art." So, Figures 15-17 are amended to add "Prior Art."
2. The drawings were objected to since a coupling capacitance lying between the inspection chip and the conductive pattern (claim 9) is not indicated in the drawings.

It is respectfully explained that the symbol, "C, " in Fig. 7, shows the coupling capacitance.

Also, the drawings were objected to since "a plurality of sensor elements" is not indicated

therein.

The plurality of sensor elements are shown in Fig. 9. Each of the cell 12a is a sensor element recited in claim 10. As shown in Fig. 9 and as described at page 10, lines 23 to 25, the cells are arranged in a matrix form (column 480 x row 640) along the inspection surface 1a of the inspection chip 1, and detect an inspection signal from the probe 52 to the conductive pattern 61 in a non-contact manner. That is, a plurality of sensor elements recited in claim 10 are shown in Fig. 9 with the description.

3. The drawings are objected to since they fail to show the coupling capacitance as described in the specification on page 11, lines 18-29.

As explained above, the coupling capacitance is shown as "C" in Fig. 7.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

4. Information Disclosure Statement is filed, which lists Japanese Patent Application 2000-33732 (incorrectly listed as 2000-333732) described at page 13, line 12, of the specification. The Applicants respectfully request the reference be considered.

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In connection with the filing of IDS, the applicants find a misnumbering of Japanese Patent Application number, which is amended from "2000-333732" into "2000-33732," in the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 9.

Specification

6. The abstract was objected to since it is not limited to a single paragraph. Correction is made in the abstract to delete the "break" at line 2.

7. The phrase "mounted shank 204" on page 14, line 14 was objected to, which is corrected into "mounted shank 204a."

8. The title of the invention was objected to since it is not descriptive. The title is changed into "An Inspection Apparatus for Conductive Patterns of a Circuit Board, And A Holder Thereof."

Claim Objections

9. Claim 3, line 1, was objected to, which is corrected from "a end" to "an end."

10. Claim 15, line 2, was objected to, which is corrected from "an inspection apparatus" into

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"said inspection apparatus."

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 112

12. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As explained in the section 2 above, "a plurality of sensor elements" means a set of each of the sensor element (cell) 12a as shown in Fig. 9.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 102

14. Claims 1-8 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.102(b) as being anticipated by Wood et al (U.S. 5,302,891).

Contrary to the examiner's statement that plastic film 43 in Wood et al. corresponds to an anisotropic conductor of the present invention, the anisotropic conductor of the present invention does not correspond to the plastic film in Wood et al., so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. The anisotropic conductor of the present invention is formed by mixing

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conductive fine particles with a resin material, and it exhibits a sufficient conductivity in the thermo-compressed direction thereof, as explained in the specification, page 8, lines 6-10.

15. Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Haseyama et al. (U.S. 6,229,320).

Amendments are made in claims 11, 14 and 16, which are believed to overcome the rejection.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-16 as corrected or amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

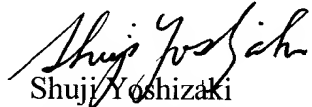
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


Shuji Yoshizaki

Agent of limited recognition

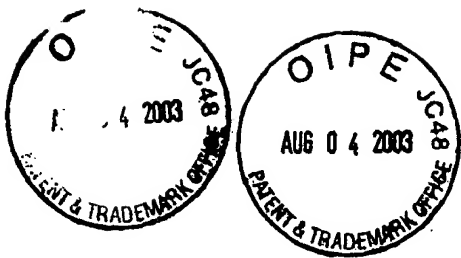
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)



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Expires: June 3, 2004

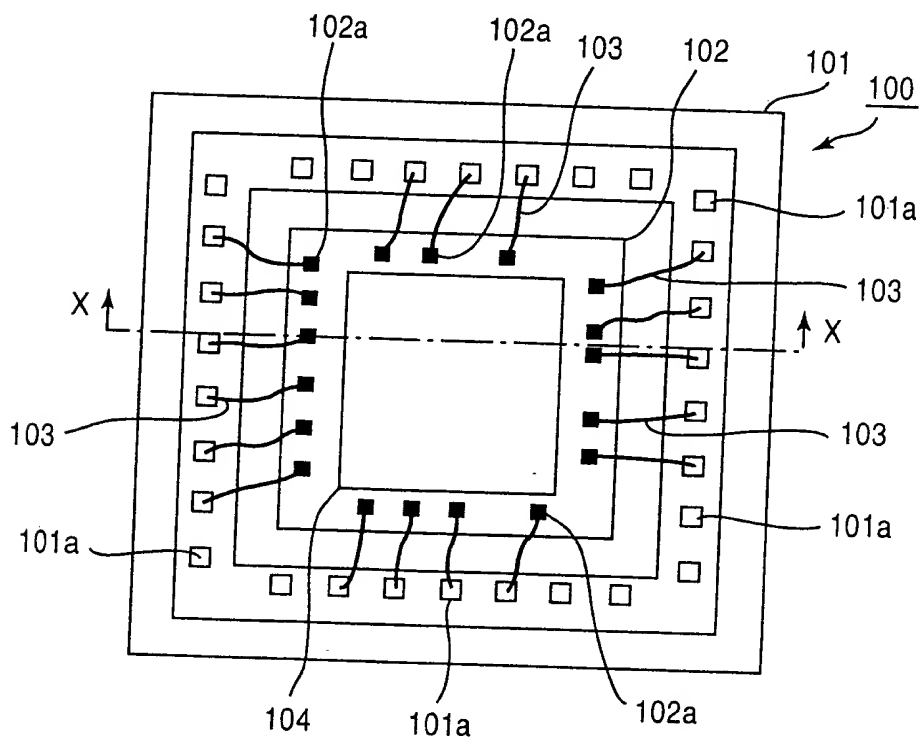
Harry I. Moatz
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Fig. 15
PRIOR ART

"PRIOR ART"
added

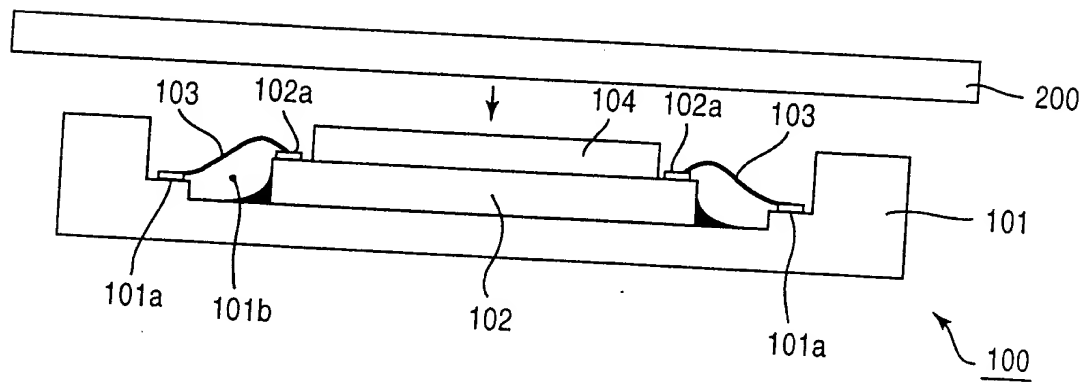




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Fig. 16
PRIOR ART

"PRIOR ART"
added





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